

REMARKS

Claim 1 calls for developing patterned photoresist. The claim further calls for applying a plasticizer to the surface of said patterned photoresist to decrease the line edge roughness. This step is not taught in any of the cited references and nothing in the material discussed with respect to claim 1 suggests in any way that such a step be done.

Next, the claim calls for reflowing the photoresist after applying the plasticizer. While the reference to Saito does teach reflowing resist, he does not teach doing so after applying a plasticizer.

Claim 13 calls for a semiconductor structure including a patterned photoresist and a coating of plasticizer on the photoresist.

All three references are cited for a combination, but there is no suggestion of using any kind of plasticizer coating on the patterned photoresist.

The reference to Allen teaches a film that contains an additive such as a plasticizer, according to the Examiner's description at the bottom of page 9. Even if this is so, that does not teach a coating of plasticizer on the photoresist.

Therefore, claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

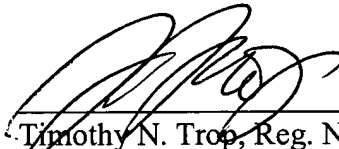
Claim 16 is another method claim which calls for applying a plasticizer to the surface of patterned photoresists to decrease line edge roughness. The photoresist is heated, together with the applied plasticizer, to reflow the photoresist. For the reasons described above, none of the cited references teach such a method.

For the convenience of the Examiner, it is noted that the rejection set forth in paragraph 2 cannot possibly be correct. It is believed there may be some type of typographical error. Claim 14, for example, is rejected as anticipated by Hallock. Claim 14 is a dependent claim, dependent on claim 13. Claim 13 is not rejected over Hallock. It is believed that such a rejection is an impossibility and, therefore, further clarification would be necessary before any response would be possible. Similarly, the rejection of claims 7-19 and 22-27, all dependent claims, dependent from an independent claim which is not rejected over Hallock is equally impossible.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy N. Trop', is written over a horizontal line.

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